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FARMING TO MEET THE DEFENSE CHALLENGE -- No. 3

Broadcast Thursday, June 12, 1941 by 16 AAA State Committeemen in the Department of Agriculture portion of the National Farm and Home Hour -- last in a series of three in which reports from all 48 States was presented by Committeemen attending National AAA Conference in Washington, D. C.)

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KADDERLY:

In Washington now, we have a group of people in the studio from every part of the United States.

They're going to report to you on how the farmers in the States they represent are "farming to meet the defense challenge." Their reports comprise the third and last broadcast of the series on this subject, completing the roll of the 48 States. These men came to Washington to represent the farmers of their States in preparing the Triple-A Farm Program for 1942. They are State Committeemen who administer the program.

To begin, here's a report that deals with the storage of grain as one part of farming to meet the defense challenge. It's the Nebraska report, given by Fred S. Wallace.

WALLACE:

Nebraska farmers are increasing their grain storage facilities as one contribution to national defense. New bins dot the barnyards throughout the State as we prepare for 1941 harvests. In a single district of seven counties, Triple-A farmers have made cooperative purchases through local dealers of 500 steel bins. Other farmers are keeping hammers and saws busy constructing and repairing additional storage space. Nebraska's climate is ideal for safe storage of our high-quality milling wheat, barley, and other grains. We'll have abundant supplies of feeds right out on the farm where they must be available for converting into foods.

KADDERLY:

Thus, the Ever Normal Granary continues in operation....And here's another angle on today's farming job, reported by A. A. Deakins of Tennessee.

DEAKINS:

We're stepping on the gas in Tennessee....We expanded our pasturage under the Triple-A conservation program. And now, with the call for increased milk production, we're furnishing Grade A milk to tens of thousands of soldiers in training camps. We're supplying dairy products to thousands of workers on defense projects. And we'll have extra hogs, poultry, and eggs as well. Tennessee farmers are going down the National Defense road in high gear.

KADDERLY:

Next we hear from the farmers of the Granite State...Paul Sargeant of New Hampshire.

(over)

SARGEANT:

The farmers of New Hampshire are literally rolling up their sleeves and going at this defense program in earnest. Our farm organizations are helping. For example, the New Hampshire Poultry Growers Association and the Granite State Dairymen have held meetings throughout the State to acquaint farmers with the needs of the country.

Many farmers attended and showed serious interest in how they could do their part as individuals in supplying these needs. Various leading farmers' cooperatives are urging their members to store reserve supplies of feeds for use if railroad facilities become overtaxed, and many farmers are doing this. I know that New Hampshire farmers will not be found wanting.

KADDERLY:

You might not think that Wyoming ranchers and farmers would have to guard against sabotage, but Lester Compton of Wyoming says they do.

CROMPTON:

We have prepared to meet the demands of national defense without sabotaging the soil. We have done this through cooperating in the conservation program.

An outstanding example of our preparation is the better distribution of livestock on the range, resulting from stockwater practices. Wyoming operators have built 11,215 pits and reservoirs as a part of the Triple-A program. The new watering places and better grazing conditions have enabled many ranchers to produce more beef, wool, or lamb chops without increasing numbers of livestock. With us, preparedness is largely a matter of range land preparedness.

KADDERLY:

Next, for a report on farm land preparedness, we turn to W. B. Crawley of Alabama.

CRAWLEY:

In Alabama we have a program that we believe is one of the best to help prepare farming to meet defense needs. I refer to the Alabama plan of the Triple-A. This plan is designed to accomplish needed conservation work on all Alabama farms within the next five years. We want to prevent erosion and improve our soil, increase the production of food and feed, and develop a balanced agriculture that will meet our needs in either wartime or peacetime. We are making splendid progress, and since the soil is the basic heritage upon which all agriculture is based, we know our plan is helping to make this nation stronger.

KADDERLY:

More information on the preparedness of the land comes from Vermont. Representing the Green Mountain State is Will Sinclair.

SINCLAIR:

We in Vermont have been building up our soils through use of the approved practices of the Agricultural Conservation Program. During the program years of 1940 and 1941, Vermont farmers applied 72,000 tons of lime and 70,000 tons of superphosphate. The use of these materials has

helped us build up a reserve in the soil to be called on in time of need. Better soil and better feeding of our dairy cattle and poultry will help us meet increased market requirements for dairy and poultry products.

KADDERLY:

Continuing these reports on farming to meet the defense challenge, Porter Hardy, Jr., speaks for Virginia.

HARDY:

Farmers in the Old Dominion State are doing many things to meet the defense challenge. Virginia growers are producing larger acreages of tomatoes, and in spite of recent extremely dry weather have maintained their production of other vegetables. Chick hatching has been increased 20 percent; milk production is up five percent, and hog production is up from 10 to 15 percent. Hog weights are being increased about 20 or 25 pounds each. And Virginia isn't losing sight of the necessity for taking care of our land. We are using more lime and phosphate, and seeding more soil-building cover crops.

KADDERLY:

Colorado farmers and ranchers are cooperating in the food program, and here's what they're doing, as reported by Ed E. Bledsoe:

BLED SOE:

Colorado vegetable growers have already responded to the call for a greater acreage of tomatoes and other vegetables.

Hog raisers are keeping more gilts for farrow.

Dairy farmers are retaining more heifers.

Our hatcheries show a marked increase in the sale of baby chicks.

Cattle and sheep men, through conservation, have improved their grass so they can adjust their production to increased needs.

Colorado farmers and ranchers are building and maintaining a vast supply of soil fertility for both immediate defense needs and the long time defense against depletion and erosion.

KADDERLY:

South Dakota puts in a word about the work done by farm womenfolks. Representing the State is S. H. Lassen.

LASSEN:

You'll find that our South Dakota womenfolks have at least made up their share of the needed increase in poultry and egg production. You know, the farm wife likes the idea of knowing that the prices of her poultry and eggs are being supported.

For several years past, our State has suffered from drought, but the conservation program has helped us to come back in a remarkable way. We have a good supply of feed, and we have a reserve capacity on most of our farms for additional hogs and poultry. Our ranges and pastures have

been vastly improved, and that means better fed cattle for the production of both beef and dairy products.

KADDERLY:

From Maine, next, we hear a report on soil defense and farm income defense as part of the Nation's defense. R. H. Boothby.

BOOTHBY:

Eighty percent of the farmers of Maine are cooperating in the Triple-A program for protection of the soil and farm income. Ninety percent of the commercial potato growers stayed within their allotments. Maine farmers are using 10 times as much limestone and superphosphate as they formerly used. As a result of these and other soil building practices, they are able to produce more milk, more eggs, more vegetables, more poultry, and more fruit. An adequate supply of these foods means stronger bodies and keener minds so vitally needed in this emergency and in trying times that will follow the war.

KADDERLY:

Next....the wheat farmer's part in national defense. A report by Lloyd E. Tarvestad of North Dakota.

TARVESTAD:

In North Dakota we've been doing our best to safeguard the Nation from two-bit wheat. The Nation needs a big supply of wheat in times like these, and North Dakota farmers stored about 58 million bushels on farms and in elevators last year. That's about one-sixth of the Ever Normal Granary wheat supply. Through an extremely high degree of compliance with acreage allotments, large participation in the loan program, and a good big vote for marketing quotas, we have helped see to it that our large wheat reserve has not had a depressing influence on the wheat market. That's important to defense, for extremely cheap wheat spells foreclosure, misery, malnutrition, and despair on the farms and in the towns of North Dakota. We're proud to have helped prevent all that.

KADDERLY:

Out in Nevada, the farmers and ranchers are concentrating on the production of feed crops. We hear about it from George F. Ogilvie.

OGILVIE:

In Nevada we're meeting the need for more feed crops by improving plantings of grasses and legumes and with new plantings of grass pastures and alfalfa hay lands. We're giving better care to pasture lands, resting them through the early growth period and by reseeding depleted areas. This action is necessary to overcome the decline in production of alfalfa hay in the western part of the State and to coordinate the use of privately owned lands with the public land policy. The increased feed supply will permit Nevada to maintain normal production of beef, mutton, lamb, wool, poultry, pigs, and dairy products.

KADDERLY:

Another State Committeeman steps to the microphone.....F. H. Hathorne tells us about a big job being done by the farmers of Louisiana.

HATHORNE:

The big job we Louisiana farmers have to do, as I see it, is to produce more of the food needed to make our people stronger, healthier, and happier. At the same time, we must continue to improve and conserve our soil. We'll be glad to do all we can to produce food needed by others in this defense emergency, but for many years a lot of our farms haven't been producing even enough food for the families living on them. However, Louisiana farmers are correcting that situation. The number of farms producing needed food and feed on land diverted from soil-depleting crops has been steadily increasing.

KADDERLY:

Our next report comes from a State where conservation of soil and water is helping to meet the defense challenge. I present H. F. Tate, of Arizona.

TATE:

Mr. Kadderly is right. In Arizona we've been putting natural resources into safety deposit through conservation. We reduced our acreage of short staple cotton by more than 130 thousand acres from 1937 to 1940. We have increased our acreage of soil-building crops in proportion. Arizona agriculture has never been in better position to meet an emergency. With an abundance of stored water for irrigation and plenty of rainfall, we're increasing our production of tomatoes, beans, and feed for farm and range livestock.

KADDERLY:

When the call went out for an increase in the production of dry edible beans, that meant something special to the farmers of Michigan. Maurice A. Doan tells us about it.

DOAN:

Michigan farmers have accepted the challenge of the food for defense program with earnestness and determination. We produce 90 percent of the white navy bean supply. And the requested 35 percent increase in bean production meant nearly 200,000 additional acres. The bean growers in Michigan quickly adjusted their farming plans to meet this challenge and will do all that's humanly possible to fulfill their obligations to the Nation in this time of crisis. Michigan farmers are using their land to defend their land.

KADDERLY:

Those are the words that fit the spirit of the American farmers-- "using their land to defend their land." With that, we go on to our last report, given by W. B. Anderson of Florida.

ANDERSON:

Florida, due to its location, is one of the strategic outposts in this emergency. Our farmers are in full accord with the national effort to improve the food standards for all Americans. We will supply at reasonable prices the winter vegetables and citrus fruits needed by the armed forces and civilians. We want you to know you can count on us. We face the future with abiding faith in God and confidence in the ability of this Nation to survive as a free people.

KADDERLY:

And in that, Mr. Anderson, you speak not only for Florida, but for all America. I'm sure there has never been any doubt as to the spirit and power of the farmers of America nor any doubt as to the great productive power of the soil. But had there been any, the 48 State reports we've heard in these last three days would certainly have dispelled them. From every State, in a different way, has come the story of organized ability and the will to adjust farming to the needs of America and the friends of democracy abroad. It's a story of great national strength--this story of Farming to Meet the Defense Challenge.

Farm and Home friends, these reports have been presented by State farmer-committeemen of the Triple-A Farm Program. As I said in the beginning, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration this week is holding its annual summer conference in Washington, to make a general appraisal of current Triple A programs and to look ahead to the future. About 175 people are here, representing State Agricultural Conservation committees and Extension Services from all of the states. The conference will make recommendations for preparing next year's program.

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